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FRIDAY, 21st OCTOBER, 1932.  
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Report of Acting Commonwealth Statistician on -

UNEMPLOYMENT - 3rd QUARTER, 1932.

Trade Union returns.

The percentage of unemployment in reporting Trade Unions shows a small improvement on the second quarter's figures. The percentages for the last five quarters have been:-

1931	3rd. Quarter	..	28.3	per cent
	4th Quarter	..	28.0	" "
1932	1st Quarter	..	28.3	" "
	2nd Quarter	..	30.0	" "
	3rd Quarter	..	29.6	" "

The number of trade unionists represented in these returns is normally about half the total. The proportion is now rather higher because the Unions unable to make returns include those with the most fluctuating membership. Generally it may be said that these returns include little information about rural employment, so that the percentage does not vary greatly with the season, though the total unemployment in the country may be a good deal affected by the crop seasons.

The general impression has been of a recent decrease of unemployment greater than that shown by the Trade Union figures. Besides the fact that rural employment is hardly reflected in these returns, it must be noted that they refer to the middle of August. At that time the improvement in employment was only just beginning to show. The Sydney index of factory employment was lower in July than in May, when the last Trade Union returns were made. It was only in August that a marked improvement - 8 per cent over June, - showed in the Sydney Index, and this improvement may have just missed inclusion in the Trade Union returns.

Further, such improvement in the Trade Union returns, as might be reflected from the present activity in rural occupation, would not show in August. The second and third quarters' figures, for May and August, refer to the winter season.

For the third quarter, the improvement though small is common to all States, except South Australia, where there was a very small increase. The greatest improvement was in Victoria. Most classes of industry had better figures. Metal works, clothing, and a large group of "other" manufacturing showed appreciable improvement. On the other hand, "Food and drink," and Mining were appreciably worse. The movement in Food and Drink was seasonal, (fruit preserving etc) and the percentage is practically the same as through the second half of 1931. The Mining figures refer almost entirely to coal mining.

Detailed tables are appended:-

UNEMPLOYMENT - AUSTRALIA - Number and Membership of  
Trade Unions Reporting, and Number and Percentage Unemployed -  
1st Quarter, 1929; 1st Quarter, 1932 to 3rd Quarter, 1932.

AUSTRALIA		1st Quarter 1929.	1st Quarter 1932.	2nd Quarter 1932.	3rd Quarter 1932.
Number of Unions	..	375	395	396	395
Membership	..	420,756	425,094	413,742	412,997
Unemployed - Number	..	39,159	120,366	124,068	122,340
Percentage	..	9.3	28.3	30.0	29.6

Percentage of Members of Trade Unions returned as Unemployed  
in each State for the 1st Quarter, 1929; 1st Quarter, 1932  
to 3rd Quarter, 1932.

State		1st Quarter 1929.	1st Quarter 1932.	2nd Quarter 1932.	3rd Quarter 1932.
		%	%	%	%
New South Wales	..	9.7	31.8	33.2	33.0
Victoria	..	8.6	26.0	27.7	27.0
Queensland	..	7.1	18.2	19.9	19.3
South Australia..	..	13.2	33.1	35.2	35.4
Western Australia	..	8.5	28.6	30.3	30.1
Tasmania	..	8.7	27.3	27.4	26.9
<u>AUSTRALIA</u>	..	9.3	28.3	30.0	29.6

Unemployment Percentages in Industrial Groups - Australia -  
1st Quarter, 1929; 1st Quarter, 1932 to 3rd Quarter, 1932.

State		1st Quarter 1929.	1st Quarter 1932.	2nd Quarter 1932.	3rd Quarter 1932.
		%	%	%	%
Manufacturing -					
I. Wood, Furniture, &c.		6.5	36.6	39.6	39.4
II. Engineering, Metal Works &c.		11.2	31.1	33.9	32.9
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, &c.		5.4	17.1	19.4	20.7
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, &c.		9.8	22.8	22.6	21.3
V. Books, Printing, &c.		2.6	15.4	16.8	16.7
VI. Other Manufacturing ..		13.8	42.5	43.0	41.3
VII. Building ..	..	10.6	37.9	42.1	41.6
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, &c...		13.2	33.5	34.2	35.6
X. Land Transport, other than Railway and Tram- way Services.	..	7.6	27.3	29.6	29.9
IX, XI, XII, XIII, and XIV, Other and Miscellaneous		7.3	21.4	22.2	22.0
<u>TOTAL</u>	..	9.3	28.3	30.0	29.6

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